

Salem School Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 21, 2009

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Mr. Nate Bryant, Mr. Kevin Carr, Dr. Janet Crane, Mr. James Fleming, Mrs. Kerry Martin,

Members Absent: Dr. Brendan Walsh

Others Present: Dr. William Cameron, Superintendent, Alyce Davis, Assistant Superintendent. School Business Administrator Timothy Sheehan, and Eileen Sacco, Secretary

Mr. Carr called the Regular Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Crane. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Salem School Committee meeting held on Monday, December 7, 2009 were presented for approval.

Dr. Crane moved approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2009 School Committee meeting as presented. Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Student Representative Report – Zachary Broughton

Salem High School Student Representative Zachary Broughton addressed the School Committee and reported on the following events and activities at Salem High School:

The French Club and the JROTC members appreciate and thank all the teachers and students who contributed food items for the Saint Joseph’s Food Pantry. 539 food items were collected. The class winner of the food drive is Mr. Adam’s class with an average of 2.92 cans per student. Thank you all.

The Freshman Class held class officer elections last Friday. The newly elected officers are:

President	Kimberly Barzola
Vice-President	Will Parr
Secretary	Hannah Morin
Treasurer	Evan Le

The JROTC collected enough toys through their toy drive to provide toys to over 500 families, and left over items will be distributed to the schools.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cameron commended the custodial staff on the snow removal effort this past weekend. He noted that there were parking issues with the public parking at schools during the snow emergency and reminded residents that if they park at schools during snow emergencies they must remove their vehicles as soon as the parking ban is lifted.

Dr. Cameron reported that Nathaniel Bowditch Principal Ana Hanton has announced that she will retire at the end of this school year. He noted that he will be forming search committees to principals for the Nathaniel Bowditch and the Saltonstall School as well as for an Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Cameron reported that Future Management Systems will make their initial presentation for the Strategic Plan at the January 25, 2010 School Committee meeting. Mayor Driscoll suggested that a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled for the presentation prior to the regular meeting on January 25th meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Cameron requested that the Curriculum Subcommittee review a Science and Math proposal for Advanced Placement courses.

Dr. Cameron requested that the matter of collective bargaining for Union Contracts be referred to the Personnel Subcommittee. He also requested that the Policy Subcommittee review the matter of vehicle idling policies as recommended by MASC, and to consider a revision to the policy on cell phone use to include texting.

Mr. Fleming moved to refer the collective bargaining package relative to collective bargaining contracts that expire this year to the Personnel Subcommittee. Dr. Crane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Fleming moved to refer the proposals for Science and Math Advanced Placement course to the Curriculum Subcommittee. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Fleming moved that the matter of the proposed revision to policy on Cell Phone Use to include texting be referred to the Policy Subcommittee.

Dr. Crane indicated that she would like to serve on the Search Committee for the Nathaniel Bowditch Principal. Mr. Fleming moved to appoint Dr. Crane to the Nathaniel Bowditch Principal Search Committee. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Crane suggested that Mrs. Martin serve on the Saltonstall Principal Search Committee. Mrs. Martin reminded the School Committee that her children attend the Saltonstall School and noted that Dr. Walsh is not here this evening and if he would like to serve on the search committee she would defer to him.

Dr. Cameron reviewed the timeline for the Race To The Top application and noted that the deadline for submitting the Memorandum of Understanding is January 13, 2010. He requested authorization from the School Committee to initiate discussions with the Salem Teachers Union regarding the Memorandum of Understanding noting that it requires the signature of the Mayor as Chair of the School Committee, the Superintendent and the President of the Teachers Union. He explained that it is crucial that the School Committee endorse this in order to be eligible for the grant money.

Mr. Fleming expressed concern that there would be a loss of local autonomy in the School District. He noted that he feels that there are burdensome reporting requirements citing examples of merit pay and annual evaluations of professional staff.

Mayor Driscoll suggested that the School Committee take some time to review the information provided and get a better understanding of this.

Dr. Cameron stated that the information regarding lifting the cap on charter schools and the federal position on that has been overstated and there is no requirement that there be no cap on charter schools.

Mr. Fleming moved to refer the matter of bargaining discussions for the Memorandum of Understanding for Race to the Top to the Personnel Negotiating Committee. Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Curriculum Report

Beth Beaulieu, Lou Wallach, and Mark Harrison reported on Laying the Foundation.

Finance Report

School Business Administrator Timothy Sheehan addressed the School Committee and reported that heating system froze this past weekend at the Saltonstall School. He explained that school was held today and the problem is being addressed. Mr. Sheehan reported that masonry work at the Bates School is progressing and the hot water heater installation at Salem High School will be done during the winter break.

Mr. Sheehan also noted that budget season is approaching and he is preparing budget documents.

Deliberation on the School Department Warrant:

The following warrants were presented for approval.

December 10, 2009 in the amount of \$ 67,028.35
December 17, 2009 in the amount of \$362,653.45

Mr. Fleming moved approval of the warrants in the amounts listed. Dr. Crane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Items

- a. Deliberation on the approval of the Superintendent's recommendation to hire a 1-1 Special Education paraprofessional for the Horace Mann School 3 ½ hours per day at a rate of \$13.37 per hour.

Mr. Carr moved approval. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. The motion carried.

School Committee Reports

There were no School Committee reports this evening.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Dr. Crane noted that the School Committee discussed endorsing a resolution in opposition to the proposed Road to Success Charter School. Mayor Driscoll noted that Dr. Walsh was going to draft that and suggested that the School Committee address this at the next meeting.

Questions and Comments from the Audience Regarding the December 21, 2009 Agenda

John Phelan of 3 Fairfield Street addressed the School Committee and expressed his ideas regarding the Nathaniel Bowditch principal search and the proposed Road to Success Charter School. He also noted that the School Committee is doing a great job and wished all Happy Holidays.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening, Mr. Fleming moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carr seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eileen M. Sacco, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Approved by the Salem School Committee on January 11, 2010